

# WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE THE WITNESS INFORMATION FORM BEFORE TESTIFYING

DATE: 3/18/15

NAME: Ivan Mendoza

ORGANIZATION: Brookside High School  
(IF APPLICABLE)

POSITION/TITLE: Student

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ARE YOU REPRESENTING: YOURSELF \_\_\_\_\_ ORGANIZATION

DO YOU WISH TO TESTIFY ON  
LEGISLATION (BILL NUMBER): 64  
SPECIFIC ISSUE: \_\_\_\_\_  
SUBJECT MATTER: \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU FAVOR \_\_\_\_\_ OR OPPOSE  THE ENACTMENT OF LEGISLATION REGARDING THIS ISSUE?

PLEASE GIVE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF THE GROUNDS ON WHICH YOU FAVOR OR OPPOSE SUCH ENACTMENT:

Oppose state funding to schools. State funding is essential in the use of extracurricular which adds to overall wellbeing of the school environment.

WILL YOU HAVE A WRITTEN STATEMENT, VISUAL AIDS, OR OTHER MATERIAL TO DISTRIBUTE?  
YES  No \_\_\_\_\_

(IF YES, PLEASE PROVIDE COPIES TO THE CHAIRMAN OR SECRETARY)

HOW MUCH TIME WILL YOUR TESTIMONY REQUIRE? 5 minutes

House Bill 64 Testimony  
Finance & Appropriations – Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee  
March 18, 2015

Ivan Mendoza  
High School Student  
Brookside High School

Greetings to the members of the committee,

My name is Ivan Mendoza. I am a student of Brookside High School in Lorain County. Thank you for the chance to give testimony on House Bill 64.

We live in an ever changing world. New technology keeps increasing and we must keep up with a world which is moving rapidly. Without quality education it will be really difficult to adapt to all these changes. America should be a fair place where everyone is given equal educational opportunities. If we want to do away with the existing differences between expanding social classes a great education is essential. It opens a whole world of opportunities for the underprivileged so that they may have equal opportunities at well paying jobs.

Today's children are tomorrow's future. Education cuts affect a student's life in tremendous ways educationally, mentally, socially and physically. Educationally, students will be able to choose from a variety of courses above common core. Though common core is essential in testing a student's ability, other courses add benefit as well. By taking a range of different classes, students can explore their interests. They will be able pursue these interests after high school and be functional in the work force. I can attest to this. Had I not taken Principles to Management my sophomore year I would not have the ardent interest and dedication to one day be a health care manager. If such classes were cut from high school, I earnestly believe I would not know what I would pursue after high school.

Less funds for education negatively affects the student socially. When extracurricular, such as clubs, are cut the student and society takes the fall. Extracurricular provides students the opportunity to focus on social skills that will be utilized in the work force. Through clubs, a student can learn social skills that promote a safe educational environment. Several social skills

cannot be taught in a classroom setting, especially just through common core courses. Standards for common core consist of academics not social skills. However, both are essential in modern society. Thus, the importance of extracurricular is becoming more and more apparent. If students are not equipped with proper social skills, they will struggle adapting after high school.

Physically, many students depend on extracurricular to provide a fun, scholastic opportunity to socialize, to compete and to stay in shape. Students involved in sport obtain a responsibility to keep up with their grades as well as maintain a standard of physical health. Both of these responsibilities will benefit a student in the long run. Students who are active now lower the risk of future health problems. Extracurricular gives students that extra push. The extracurricular sport I participate in is wrestling. Wrestling motivated me to be the best person I can possibly be. Since middle school I lost 60 pounds and maintained over a 4.0 grade point average.

As a student, I see the effects funding on education has on the community. Money can be a sensitive issue. The previous levy was not passed in the Sheffield-Sheffield Lake community. Many programs and positions were cut. Sure it saves money to not have these programs, but it truly impacts the lives in the community. Those programs being cut mean a lot to the students. It provides students incentive to succeed academically. As far as the cut positions, many of those people were mentors to the students. They taught more than a school lesson. They taught life lessons. It is a shame that the Sheffield community will not see those faces next year.

Will money trump the value of student life? I hope my children's children do not live to see this day. Once again, thank you for this opportunity to speak on House Bill 64, and thank you for the hard work that is being done for Ohio's future.